

Agenda Item 2A: Federal Advocacy Letters

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DOREEN FARR

Third District

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STEVE LAVAGNINO

Fifth District



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COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

September 8, 2015

The Honorable Rob Bishop, Chairman
Committee on Natural Resources
U.S. House of Representatives
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear: Mr. Chairman

As a follow-up to the Indian, Insular, and Alaska Native Affairs Subcommittee's legislative hearing on June 15, 2015 regarding Congressman LaMalfa's H.R. 1157, the *Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Mission Indians Land Transfer Act of 2015*, the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors voted unanimously (5-0) at its August 25, 2015 meeting to officially authorize discussions with the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians regarding the proposed Camp 4 development and Fee-to-Trust proposal, additional recently proposed Fee-to-Trust requests, and other general topics of mutual concern.

Enclosed please find a copy of the Board's minutes regarding this action, as well as the August 25 letter from County Executive Officer Mona Miyasato to Tribal Chairman Armenta, inviting the Chumash to enter into formal discussions with the County. The County is proposing that the first meeting be set for September 11, 2015, with subsequent meetings to be scheduled at that meeting. The meetings are subject to California's Ralph M. Brown Act, and therefore will be appropriately noticed and open to the public.

The County is committed to continuing to work with the Band regarding the development of Camp 4 and other local Fee-to-Trust properties, and in that context is carefully reviewing cooperative intergovernmental agreements successfully negotiated between other California counties and sovereign tribes. I wanted you to be aware of the Board's actions to move forward in expanding its relations with the Band.

Sincerely yours,

Thomas P. Walters
Washington Representative

TPW:awg

Enclosures

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COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

September 8, 2015

The Honorable Raul Grijalva,
Ranking Minority Member
Committee on Natural Resources
U.S. House of Representatives
1329 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Grijalva:

As a follow-up to the Indian, Insular, and Alaska Native Affairs Subcommittee's legislative hearing on June 15, 2015 regarding Congressman LaMalfa's H.R. 1157, the *Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Mission Indians Land Transfer Act of 2015*, the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors voted unanimously (5-0) at its August 25, 2015 meeting to officially authorize discussions with the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians regarding the proposed Camp 4 development and Fee-to-Trust proposal, additional recently proposed Fee-to-Trust requests, and other general topics of mutual concern.

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Thomas P. Walters
Washington Representative

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COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

September 8, 2015

The Honorable Raul Ruiz,
Ranking Minority Member
Subcommittee on Indian, Insular and Alaska Native Affairs
Committee on Natural Resources
U.S. House of Representatives
1329 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Ruiz:

As a follow-up to the Indian, Insular, and Alaska Native Affairs Subcommittee’s legislative hearing on June 15, 2015 regarding Congressman LaMalfa’s H.R. 1157, the *Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Mission Indians Land Transfer Act of 2015*, the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors voted unanimously (5-0) at its August 25, 2015 meeting to officially authorize discussions with the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians regarding the proposed Camp 4 development and Fee-to-Trust proposal, additional recently proposed Fee-to-Trust requests, and other general topics of mutual concern.

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Thomas P. Walters
Washington Representative

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COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

September 8, 2015

The Honorable Don Young, Chairman
Subcommittee on Indian, Insular and Alaska Native Affairs
Committee on Natural Resources
U.S. House of Representatives
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear: Mr. Chairman

As a follow-up to the Indian, Insular, and Alaska Native Affairs Subcommittee's legislative hearing on June 15, 2015 regarding Congressman LaMalfa's H.R. 1157, the *Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Mission Indians Land Transfer Act of 2015*, the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors voted unanimously (5-0) at its August 25, 2015 meeting to officially authorize discussions with the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians regarding the proposed Camp 4 development and Fee-to-Trust proposal, additional recently proposed Fee-to-Trust requests, and other general topics of mutual concern.

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Sincerely yours,

Thomas P. Walters
Washington Representative

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COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

September 8, 2015

The Honorable Susan Collins, Chairwoman
Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban
Development and Related Agencies
Senate Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
SD-142 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairwoman Collins:

I am writing on behalf of the County of Santa Barbara in support of FY 2016 funding for the HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME) Program at least at the \$900 million that was provided last year.

The HOME program is the only Federal block grant program left at the state and local level designed to create and preserve affordable housing that meets the specific population needs of cities and counties. In Santa Barbara County, the HOME Program, along with the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program, also provide additional public services, capital improvements, and new affordable housing, helping to reduce homelessness and prevent additional persons and families from becoming homeless.

The Senate Appropriations Committee’s version of the *FY 2016 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act* would reduce HOME program funding by 93 percent from \$900 million to \$66 million. This year, California received \$120 million in HOME funds, 48 percent less than was received in 2011. The proposed FY 2016 cut would mean the entire nation would have access to only half of what California received this year.

In addition to HOME, the County supports the highest level of funding for the following housing and community development programs in the *FY 2016 THUD* bill:

- The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program - This program is vital to the County to provide increased opportunities to plan, implement, and evaluate local community development and housing assistance programs,
- McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Homeless programs – especially the Continuum of Care and Emergency Solutions Grant programs,
- Housing for People with AIDS (HOPWA); and,
- Elderly Housing.

Please work with your colleagues on the Committee to ensure that housing and community development programs critical to State and local governments are funded at the highest possible level in the conference agreement for the *FY 2016 THUD* bill.

Sincerely yours,

Thomas P. Walters
Washington Representative

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COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

September 8, 2015

The Honorable Mario Diaz-Balart, Chairman
Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban
Development and Related Agencies
House Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
2358-A Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Diaz-Balart:

I am writing on behalf of the County of Santa Barbara in support of FY 2016 funding for the HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME) Program at least at the \$900 million that was provided last year.

The HOME program is the only Federal block grant program left at the state and local level designed to create and preserve affordable housing that meets the specific population needs of cities and counties. In Santa Barbara County, the HOME Program, along with the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program, also provide additional public services, capital improvements, and new affordable housing, helping to reduce homelessness and prevent additional persons and families from becoming homeless.

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Sincerely yours,

Thomas P. Walters
Washington Representative

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COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

September 8, 2015

The Honorable David Price
Ranking Minority Member
Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban
Development and Related Agencies
House Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Price:

I am writing on behalf of the County of Santa Barbara in support of FY 2016 funding for the HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME) Program at least at the \$900 million that was provided last year.

The HOME program is the only Federal block grant program left at the state and local level designed to create and preserve affordable housing that meets the specific population needs of cities and counties. In Santa Barbara County, the HOME Program, along with the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program, also provide additional public services, capital improvements, and new affordable housing, helping to reduce homelessness and prevent additional persons and families from becoming homeless.

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Sincerely yours,

Thomas P. Walters
Washington Representative

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COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

September 8, 2015

The Honorable Jack Reed
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban
Development and Related Agencies
Senate Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
SH-125 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Reed:

I am writing on behalf of the County of Santa Barbara in support of FY 2016 funding for the HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME) Program at least at the \$900 million that was provided last year.

The HOME program is the only Federal block grant program left at the state and local level designed to create and preserve affordable housing that meets the specific population needs of cities and counties. In Santa Barbara County, the HOME Program, along with the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program, also provide additional public services, capital improvements, and new affordable housing, helping to reduce homelessness and prevent additional persons and families from becoming homeless.

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Sincerely yours,

Thomas P. Walters
Washington Representative

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COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

September 2, 2015

The Honorable Lois Capps
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Lois:

I have sent the enclosed letters to Chairman Boustany and Ranking Minority Member Doggett of the Ways and Means Subcommittee on Human Resources, expressing the support of the Board of Supervisors for the restoration and enhancement of State and county flexibility to tailor work and support services that move families into self-sufficiency based on their unique needs in the TANF program.

TANF was founded on the idea that states should have the flexibility to design their programs suited to their unique populations in order to help families transition from assistance to self-sufficiency. However, the last reauthorization of TANF, as part of the Deficit Reduction Act (DRA) of 2005, was heavily weighted toward Federal oversight and penalties instead of state flexibility, a change that was unwarranted given the progress States made in reducing the welfare rolls after TANF was implemented.

The County supports a more balanced approach between federal oversight and state flexibility under TANF, which would enhance its ability to achieve more successful outcomes through the program. This includes criteria that measure its effectiveness by utilizing more outcome-based measures, and that restore and enhance the flexibility to tailor work and support services to local needs. In particular, the County urges the reversal of the damaging changes to the Work Participation Rates (WPR) formula and definition of "work" implemented by DRA.

The subcommittee recently released a discussion draft entitled, *Improving Opportunity in America Welfare Reauthorization Act of 2015*. Please urge your colleagues who serve on the subcommittee to include the County's proposals for flexibility and incentives gauged toward effective measures of welfare program success as they move forward with action on this or other measures to reauthorize TANF.

Sincerely yours,

Thomas P. Walters
Washington Representative

TPW: awg

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COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

September 2, 2015

The Honorable Charles W. Boustany, Chairman
Subcommittee on Human Resources
Committee on Ways and Means
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors urges you to support the restoration and enhancement of State and county flexibility to tailor work and support services that move families into self-sufficiency based on their unique needs in the TANF program.

TANF was founded on the idea that states should have the flexibility to design their programs suited to their unique populations in order to help families transition from assistance to self-sufficiency. However, the last reauthorization of TANF, as part of the Deficit Reduction Act (DRA) of 2005, was heavily weighted toward Federal oversight and penalties instead of state flexibility, a change that was unwarranted given the progress States made in reducing the welfare rolls after TANF was implemented.

In California, counties administer and provide county financial support for TANF – known as CalWORKS, with oversight from the State. As such, Santa Barbara County supports a more balanced approach between federal oversight and state flexibility to enhance its ability to achieve more successful outcomes through the program. This includes criteria that measure its effectiveness by utilizing more outcome-based measures, and that restore and enhance the flexibility to tailor work and support services to local needs. In particular, the County urges the reversal of the damaging changes to the Work Participation Rates (WPR) formula and definition of “work” implemented by DRA.

TANF Reauthorization offers an opportunity to change the current one-size fits all Federal rules that penalize States and counties. Your subcommittee recently released a discussion draft entitled, *Improving Opportunity in America Welfare Reauthorization Act of 2015*. As you move forward with action on this or other measures to reauthorize TANF, please include the County’s proposals for flexibility and incentives gauged toward effective measures of welfare program success.

Sincerely yours,

Thomas P. Walters
Washington Representative

TPW: awg

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COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

September 2, 2015

The Honorable Lloyd Alton Doggett II
Ranking Minority Member
Subcommittee on Human Resources
Committee on Ways and Means
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Doggett:

The Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors urges you to support the restoration and enhancement of State and county flexibility to tailor work and support services that move families into self-sufficiency based on their unique needs in the TANF program.

TANF was founded on the idea that states should have the flexibility to design their programs suited to their unique populations in order to help families transition from assistance to self-sufficiency. However, the last reauthorization of TANF, as part of the Deficit Reduction Act (DRA) of 2005, was heavily weighted toward Federal oversight and penalties instead of state flexibility, a change that was unwarranted given the progress States made in reducing the welfare rolls after TANF was implemented.

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Sincerely yours,

Thomas P. Walters
Washington Representative

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